# SERIES OF FIERCE COMBATS

## Angered Whites Surround Negro Quarter, and Set It on Fire.

Passing Trains Hit by Volleys

THOUSANDS FLEE IN TERROR

in Battles at Railway -Stations. TROOPS RUSHED TO CITY

## Governor Comes to Investigate -Arrest of Negro for Attack

on Girl Started Trouble.

Special to The New York Times. TULSA, Okla., June 1.—After twentyfour hours of one of the most disastrous

race wars ever visited upon an Ameri-

can city, during which time eighty-five or more persons were killed and the negro quarter of Tulsa, comprising upward of thirty densely populated blocks, was wiped out by fire, the State militia had gained virtual control tonight and the rioting seems to have come to an An official estimate early tonight was eighty-five dead of whom it was said twenty-five might be whites and sixty negroes. This followed a statement issued by Police Chief Daly, saying that he believed the probable ultimate loss

their lives in the fires. Late tonight, however, the known dead were 77, of whom 9 were whites and 68'. negroes. One hundred whites and 200 are estimated to have been negroes wounded, many seriously. All the local hospitals are filled to overflowing, and emergency relief has been started by the Red Cross, Y. M. H. A., Y. W. C. A. and other welfare organizations.

The entire "black belt" of Tulsa is

now only a smoldering heap of black-

to be 175, and that many persons lost

ened ruins. Hardly a negro shanty is area that throughout an standing housed upward of 15,000 blacks. Domestic animals wandering among the wreckage give the only token of life over a desolate territory, extending from the Frisco tracks to Sand Pipe Hill on the north. Looting by lawless elements goes on sporadically. Tulsa city and Tulsa county are under martial law, proclaimed at noon. Ordinances, promulgated by the military au-

thorities, who are in charge of the city. established a curfew at 7 o'clock this evening and no person, white or black,

was

without credentials.

to be lynched.

themselves.

allowed abroad after that hour

State Guardsmen with fixed bayonets-

patrol all the streets of the business and railroad districts and armed police\_ and automobiles move through the city to break up suspicious gatherings. Governor Comes to Investigate. Governor Robertson and Attorney General Freeling arrived this evening from Oklahoma City with the announced purpose of making a vigorous investigation into the cause of the outbreaks, which

started last evening; following rumors

that a negro bootblack, Deck Rowland, held in the Court House on a charge of

assault upon a white elevator girl, was

Six thousand negroes are under heavy

guard in hastily established detention camps. Most of these are at the baseball park. The race war that resulted in such a tragedy developed with great speed. After Rowland, the negro, was arrested late yesterday afternoon, accused of attacking a white orphan girl, who ran an elevator in the Drexel office build-

ing, rumors flew through the black beit

By 9 o'clock 500 heavily armed blacks

had assembled before the County Court House, where Rowland was held, with

the avowed purpose of preventing a

lynching by force of arms. The police,

that the youth was to be lynched.

after an effort to disperse the mob, attempted to throw a cordon about the Court House. This was met with volleys of shots. By 11 o'clock, the news had spread throughout the city and whites of all degrees and classes began to assemble. The police were unable to control the situation. Every hardware and sporting goods store in the city was broken into as the fast assembling whites armed

peared and through the night the machines sped through the streets bristling with rifles and shotguns. At midnight, the negro army before the courthouse began to disintegrate, the negroes filtering back through side streets to their home district.

heavily entrenched, they held the whites

Soon automobile skirmish parties ap-

at bay until daybreak. General White Invasion Starts. As soon as dawn came 500 whites began the invasion of the negro quarter. Sharp fighting occurred in the railroad and freight yards, the whites steadily gaining ground as their numbers increased. Negro snipers maintained a

housetops. Fires had been started by the white invaders soon after 1 o'clock and other fires were set from time to time. By 8 o'clock practically the entire thirty blocks of homes in the negro quarters were in flames and few buildings es-

caped destruction. Negroes caught in

harassing fire from windows

their burning homes were in many instances shot down as they attempted to escape.

Heavy damage is reported to have been done to property in the freight districts. The Frisco Railroad suffered considerable loss. Engine crews were at work early in the battle area in an effort to save the sided empties, but some were burned.

American Legion men were among the carliest to respond in the crisis, and with the militia did valiant work in patrolling the streets.

Nine Known White Dead.

#### TULSA, Okla., June 1.—At an early

hour this evening new fighting broke out in the negro district, according to a fireman just from the district. He stated that firemen attempting to check the flames in North Greenwood Avenue were being made the targets of negroes and that State troops, acting under Adjutant General Barrett, who has proclaimed martial law in the entire county, also had been fired upon.

At one time during the day of fighting

·2,000 armed white men, it is said, were engaging armed negroes who were themselves numbered at fully 1,000.

Railroad stations were the scene of

several encounters and a number of casualties resulted when trains were fired upon. Women and children huddled together in the stations, seeking safety behind marble wainscoating.

Nine Known White Dead.

Of the nine white men known to have

### been killed, eight have been identified as

fcllows:

BARKER, F. M., of Haviland, Kan.

CLYNE, HOMER S., 16, of Tulsa.

DAGGS, WALTER, local manager of the

Pierce Oil Corporation, formerly of Leroy,

JAMES, ARTHUR, of Wyona, Okla.
LOTSPOICH, CARL D., 26, of Tulsa.
SHUMATE, CLEO, 24, of Tulsa.
WITHROW, S. J., 19, of Tulsa.
UNIDENTIFIED MAN, about 40 years old.
Only one negro walks the streets of

Tulsa tonight unhampered. He is Barney Cleaver, a negro Deputy Sheriff, who is well regarded by both whites and negroes. Not one of the rioters turned a hand against the peace-loving negro, and he is the only one of his race who ventures on the streets without an armed guard.

Cleaver has been instrumental in getting hundreds of his race to disarm and seek refuge under protection of the

Swift Movement of Events.

Events developed fast in the city's day of tragedy.

## Dick Rowland, a negro, was arrested

late yesterday afternoon, accused o assault upon an orphan white girl. Howas taken to the Court House and

lodged in jail on the upper floor.

Apparently rumors of an attempt to lynch him got about, for about 7 o'clock motor cars containing armed negroe appeared on the principal streets headed for the Court House.

Thereupon armed white men also be gan to gather in the same neighborhood Soon the streets were filled with shouting, gesticulating men.

The first shooting affray came soon after dark, when a negro was stopped.

by a police officer and his gun take away. He attempted to resist, according to the officer, and was shot dead.

Meanwhile a great crowd of white gathered about the Court House steps nearly all of them being unarmed.

sume a belligerent attitude themselved Finally a verbal altercation between the factions began. E. S. MacQueen, de tective, attempted to intervene.

Suddenly a shot rang out and instantly

As the minutes passed, the white me

the firing became general and the crowd scattered in haste, while armed negroes began training their guns on the fleeing forms. At least one white man was killed in this affray.

The negroes finally retreated slowly up Boulder Street, the alley back of the Court House, which is on Bosto

Street, firing as they went. When the

emerged on Fourth Street hot skirmishe

ensued.

A second white man was killed about this time, according to the police, who a party of whites, passing in a moticar, mistook him for a negro, and shim. He died almost instantly.

Guardsmen Rushed to Scene.

Soon after the Court House outbres

the authorities realized their inabili

to control the mobs with police alo:

and at 11 o'clock a call was sent Governor Robertson for troops. The Governor promotly directed Ad Gen. Charles F. Barrett to take a

The Adjutant General ordered out thr companies of guardsmen here and semi-instructions to commanding officers in several nearby towns to be prepared to rush men here on immediate notice. The local guardsmen were thrown about the Court House to prevent the crowd from

The mob in this vicinity was finally dispersed early in the morning without any shooting. Rowland, the negró prisoner, was spirited away from the jail early in the day by deputies from the office of Sheriff McCullough, who refused to divulge his whereabouts.

Armed Forces Face Each Other.

Throughout the early morning hours 500 white men and a thousand negroes

ten negroes could be seen lying in a space described as "no man's land." The police also had a report that three railway switchmen and a brakeman had

faced each other across the railroad tracks. It was reported early to Police Headquarters that the bodies of six to

The trainmen were killed, it was said, because they refused to permit members of the opposing crowds to ride upon a switch engine passing between the lines. The engineer was reported to have escaped.

Attempts by white rioters to burn the negro quarter began early and were persistent.

Incendiarism and a New Battle.

As the dawn broke sixty or seventy

motor cars filled with armed white men formed a circle around the negro sec-

overhead. There was much shouting and shooting.

About this hour (6:30 o'clock) incendiarism by wholesale was resumed. Almost simultaneously fire began to burst forth from the doors and windows of frame shacks along Archer Street.

Soon dense clouds of black smoke enveloped the location.

The invaders were apparently supplied with inflamables. According to the police they set altogether more than 25 separate fires.

As the fire enveloped houses, negroes would dart out with upraised hands, shouting "Don't shoot!" As they

ordered to surrender and were quickly removed to detention camps.

In an outbreak at 7:30 o'clock in the Stand Pipe Hill district in the extreme northern end of the negro quarter, Mrs. S. A. Gilmore, a white woman, was shot in the left arm and side. She was standing on the front porch of her

dashed through the smoke they were

home when she was shot by a negro. The heaviest fighting was in the northern section, where hundreds of negroes were concentrated in a valley. Fifty were barricaded in a church. Several massed attacks were launched against the church, but each time the attackers had to fall back under the fire of the negro defenders. Finally a

fire of the negro defenders. Finally a torch was applied to the building and the occupants began to pour out, firing as they ran. Several of the negroes were killed.

Apparently the negroes were either ex-

pecting or preparing for trouble with

the whites. In almost every second house burned there were explosions of boxes of sheils. The police say that the I. W. W. and other malcontents had been stirring up animosity between the blacks and whites for months.

Seven Engagements Up to Noon.

Fires continued to rage all the morning in the negro section. Up to noon there has been six distinct engagements between whites and blacks since the first one at 1 o'clock last night.

At noon the Fire Department Chief, speaking of the continued spread of flames, said:
"We can't use the equipment we have,

and for that reason we have not asked for more apparatus from other cities. It would mean a fireman's life to turn a stream of water on one of those negro buildings. They shot at us all morning when we were trying to do something, but none of my men was hit. There is not a chance in the world to get through that mob into the negro district.

Herd Negroes in Detention Camps.

It was found necessary very early to establish detention camps for the

negroes who had fled from the blazing section where they had been living.

Convention Hall was thrown open to accommodate the terror-stricken fugitives. Throughout the early morning long lines of negroes streamed westward

along the streets leading to the hall. Many wore their night clothes and were barefooted. Their sunken eyes told of a sleepless night and their ashen faces bespoke gripping fear.

Men, women and children carried bundles of clothing on their heads and backs. The articles they saved were varied and in many cases would have been ludicrous but for the gravity of the situation. Here an old woman clung

varied and in many cases would have been ludicrous but for the gravity of the situation. Here an old woman clung to a Bible, there a girl with dishevelled hair carried a wooly white dog under her arm and behind trotted a little girl with a big wax doll.

By 9 o'clock 2,000 negroes had been gathered at Convention Hall, all being under guard. Soon the edifice was filled, as was also the police station.

The rest of those gathered up as fugitives or combatants were taken to the baseball park.

In view of the continued serious condition in Tulsa, martial law was put into effect at noon throughout Tulsa County, following receipt of orders from Governor Robertson directing that the military take over control. It was then estimated that six whites and fifty ne-

groes had been killed in the fighting,

All available National Guardsmen, in-

with scores wounded.

killed.

cluding companies from Muskogee, Oklahoma City and Wagoner, who had arrived at 9 o'clock, were stationed in the negro quarter. All persons not deputized as special officers, were ordered to disarm by a proclamation issued by Mayor Evans. Persons carrying guns were to be arrested instantly.

Detachments of guardsmen were scattered throughout the city with machine guns ready for action. Guards sur-

rounded the armory, while others as-

sisted in rounding up negroes and segregating them in the detention camps. A commission, composed of seven city officials and business men, was formed by Mayor Evans and Chief of Police Gustafson, with the approval of General Barrett, to pass upon the status of the negroes detained.

Despite the placing of the city under martial law, desultory firing continued during the afternoon. An unconfirmed report reached Mayor Evans that two more negroes and a white man had been

A check of the hospitals in early afternoon showed that nearly two score

whites were being treated for injuries.

More than fifty white patients left the hospitals, following treatment, without giving names. Most of the patients had arm and leg wounds and only a few were reported in a serious condition Many of the injured, it was said, were hurt while engaging in hand-to-hand street fights.

RECEIVE TULSA REFUGEES.

Scores of Negroes Have Arrived in

## Bartlesville. BARTLESVILLE, Okla., June 1.—

#### Scores of the negroes, who fled from Tulsa early this morning following the firing of the section of the city in which

they had lived, arrived here late today and more are arriving every little while.

Refugees also came here from Owassa and Collinsville, near Tulsa, where it was reported signs of trouble were seen.

Members of the American Legion have formed a guard over about 200 refugees, among them women and children, who have been taken to the City Park for the

Members of a train crew from Tulsa,

who passed through Bartlesville, told

Earl Thompson, day operator at the Union Station here, that they had passed 3,000 negroes near Owasso, about thirty miles south of here, headed in the direction of Bartlesville. Thompson said the trainmen told him that most of the negroes were walking.

MUSKOGEE HAD A SCARE.

Thought Siren Call for Troops

a Riot.

#### utes before quiet could be restored through the announcement that the call was for the purpose of calling out Na-

MUSKOGEE, Okla., June 1.—Sounding

of the fire siren here today threw the

city into excitement. It was some min-

Meant

# was for the purpose of calling out National Guards for duty at Tulsa. The siren was mistaken for a riot call. At the offices of the Missouri, Kansas

& Texas Railroad here it was said that

no passenger trains were being moved out of Tulsa.

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